

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring Frank Menard, the other 93 Louisiana heroes we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

IN HONOR OF REVEREND WALLACE S. HARTSFIELD

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, a much-loved member of the Kansas City community. Reverend Hartsfield will soon retire after 40 years as the senior pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. He has served as Metropolitan's pastor since 1972 with the support of his wife Matilda and their four children. Prior to that, he held pastoral positions in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Kansas.

Reverend Hartsfield's distinguished career in the ministry has touched thousands in Missouri. As the ambassador for his church, he has graced pulpits across the country bringing words of hope to the masses. He is a respected servant-leader of many organizations including the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; National Baptist Convention, USA; Congress of National Black Churches and the General Baptist State Convention of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

He has expanded his ministry as a community advocate. Reverend Hartsfield has spent much of his life speaking up for those whose voices are ignored on the subjects of civil rights, health care, education, crime and safety, and economic development. One of his bravest acts occurred in 1964 when five department stores in downtown Kansas City refused to allow African Americans to try on clothes, use the restrooms, drink at the water fountains, or eat at the lunch counters. Reverend Hartsfield organized a boycott and marched on the stores. Eventually African Americans were allowed to patronize these stores but it was not without the personal intervention of this inspirational leader.

His service has afforded him a seat at many tables where he has proven to be a skillful diplomat and a cunning negotiator. Reverend Hartsfield has worked on countless boards including those of the Jazz District Redevelopment Corporation, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission, and Kansas City Interfaith Council.

Reverend Hartsfield has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and minor degrees in religion and psychology from Clark College in Atlanta, GA. He also holds a bachelor and master of divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Dr. Hartsfield has served as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities across the Nation.

Reverend Hartsfield has been a mentor to many, from pastors to politicians. He continues to provide wise counsel to those who want to make a difference in the world. He also has the ability to identify hidden treasures in those who have not been afforded an opportunity to thrive. This precious gift has been the catalyst for many to realize their dreams.

For 40 years, the members of Metropolitan have been blessed to have this powerful leader at the helm. Reverend Hartsfield has worked hard and he has earned the opportunity to step back. However, we know his work is not yet done. He will continue shaping lives, communities and destinies for years to come.

During one of the many times he was honored for his good works it was said:

Wallace Hartsfield does battle with all the dark forces that would keep us from knowing and loving one another. With his Bible and his passion for justice and his rock-ribbed integrity, Reverend Wallace Hartsfield leads us to the high moral ground where all God's children sit down together as family at the table of peace and delight.

No truer words could be spoken.●

REMEMBERING WYNN SPEECE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the passing of Wynn Speece. Wynn passed away on October 22, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD, at the age of 90.

Many will remember Wynn as the "Neighbor Lady" from her WNAX talk radio show. For 64 years her voice came into the homes of countless Midwestern families. Her household tips, recipes, and personal anecdotes will be missed not only by South Dakotans but also by her many listeners throughout the Midwestern region.

Wynn grew up in Marshalltown, IA, where she took a special interest in home economics and theater. Upon her graduation from high school, she continued her education at Drake University where she majored in speech with a broadcasting emphasis. After her graduation in 1939, she took a job writing commercials for WNAX in Yankton, SD. It took 2 years of writing before WNAX gave Wynn her very own show. From the first show she was an instant success, and that success would follow the "Neighbor Lady" for the next 64 years.

Wynn won several awards for outstanding radio work. She was presented with the prestigious Marconi Award for "Best Small-Market Radio Personality" and was named one of the top 10 Yankton citizens of the 20th century by the Yankton Press and Dakotan. Not only was Wynn a celebrated radio host, but she also worked hard to make a positive impact on the community of Yankton. Her local involvement and selfless giving earned Wynn the 1991 Yankton Community Citizen of the Year Award.

Wynn Speece was an extraordinary woman and a great South Dakotan who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.●

REMEMBERING CAROLE HILLARD

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the passing of Carole Hillard, former Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota. Carole Hillard was a gracious woman with an authentic and deeply held passion for public service.

Ms. Hillard was born August 14, 1936, in Deadwood, SD. She attended the University of Arizona and received a degree in education in 1957. She received a master's degree in education from South Dakota State University in 1982 and a master's degree in political science from the University of South Dakota in 1984.

As the mother of five children, David, Sue Ellen, Todd, Eddie, and Lornell, she possessed the practical knowledge to connect with the needs of South Dakotans as she served on the South Dakota Board of Charities and Corrections, the Rapid City United Way Campaign, the South Dakota Children's Home Society, and as the first woman president of the Rapid City Council.

She was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives in 1991 and served until 1994, at which point she became the first female Lieutenant Governor in South Dakota. From 1995 until 2003, Ms. Hillard graciously presided over the Senate and memorably seemed initially surprised when State Senators on the Senate floor formally referred to her as "Madam President." Her career in public service and the impact she had did not go unnoticed, as she won many awards in her lifetime, including the 1987 Public Service Award, the 1988 Governor's Outstanding Citizen Award, the 1993 South Dakota Outstanding Women Award, and induction into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2007.

Not only has she accomplished much for the State of South Dakota but she has also accomplished much on the international level. In recent years, Carole Hillard was an international consultant traveling on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. Ms. Hillard completed assignments to 67 countries such as Panama, the Czech Republic, San Salvador, Bosnia, and Africa. Recently, she also helped bring to life a skill-building workshop for residents of Kabul, Afghanistan, and supervised the January 2007 elections in the West Bank.

Carole Hillard's life accomplishments are truly remarkable. Her positive outlook on life, her integrity, and her warm personality truly embodied a woman whose passion was the betterment of humankind. While Ms. Hillard is no longer with us, her legacy of service to the people of South Dakota and her diligent work on the promotion of democracy and economic development will not be forgotten.●